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The History of Sioux County

J. W. Warnshuis

THE HISTORY OF SIOUX COUNTY

by the honorable J. W. Warnshuis
(translated by Dr. Paul Vander Kooi)

Thursday, May 29, 1879

The garden of Northwestern Iowa. A colony of Dutch established in the eastern part of the county. A sketch of the Reformed churches there. The writer, in the composing of this history intended for one of the New York daily papers, has consulted the following sources: the centennial address of Honorable C.C. Nourse; the historical sketch of S.C. Hyde; and is especially indebted to Mr. H. Hospers of Orange City for the mentioning of significant particulars regarding the previous history of the Dutch colony.

IOWA

The state of Iowa lies in the middle of the United States, its southwest corner being almost in the geographical center. It lies between 40 degrees 36 minutes and 43 degrees 30 minutes latitude. The first point approximates that of New York; the second that of the middle of Lake Ontario.

Iowa became a state Dec. 3, 1848. The U.S. gave the sixteenth section from each township for the advancement of public education; likewise 70 sections for the purpose of establishment of a University. Thus as a bride endowed with a rich dowry, Iowa could begin housekeeping on its own.

America can not more wonderfully and proudly show the human world than her new states, young wealth, born through her diligence and brought up on her own political hearth. Well could they say to the monarchs of the Old World when they display their graceless greatness: "See my crown jewels." And they would not have to blush if they added: "And that in the middle of the diamond is named Iowa."

When in the fullness of his goodness the creator placed the great

pastures between the Mississippi and Missouri and the finger of divine love created the streams and rivers which watered this land, He declared this land to be a land of peace and plenty, a wilderness where plowshare and pruning hook would be a means for His greatest triumph.

Sioux County lies in the northwestern part of the state in the second row of counties (counting from the north) and is demarcated by the Big Sioux River and the Dakota territory to the west. The county contains 20 congressional townships. The county was organized Jan. 20, 1860, and the first election held Feb. 5 of the same year. The county seat was first in Calliope along the Big Sioux River and in 1872 transferred to Orange City.

At the time of the organization, the county was completely occupied with Sioux Indians, the most treacherous and cruel of the northwestern tribes. They had relinquished all claims to the land to the United States July 28, 1851, but hung around the vicinity of the Big Sioux and Rock Rivers and arrested to a great deal the colonization of the county up until the year 1866.

At that time there were only 25 acres under cultivation and not a single school building in the county. Now there are 60 with 1700 children who receive instructions from qualified teachers; there are 40,000 acres under the plow and the population has grown to 5000 and grows weekly through newcomers. This is an indication how much the county has progressed in the last ten years.

RAILROADS

Ten years ago there were no railroad tracks for miles around. At present there are three different railroad companies. The Chicago-Milwaukee and St. Paul was built in this county this last year and will be extended to the Missouri River and later to the Black Hills to connect up with the Pacific. This railroad goes almost through the heart of the county in the direction from east to west. The main line will be shortly

one of the main routes which will join the east and west coast of the North American Continent. The Sioux City and St. Paul Railroad run along the eastern part of the county and provide a direct route to Duluth and St. Paul as well as the grain mills of Minneapolis which rank as the greatest in the world with a yearly processing of 60,000,000 bushel of wheat. The Sioux City and Pembine Railroad cut through the western side of the county and put us in contact with the Missouri River to the South which is a natural canal for all heavy produce to be transported to the ocean. A number of miles (18) to the south of us lies the Illinois Central Railroad which puts Sioux City in direct connection with Chicago.

These are the commercial privileges which we enjoy and which few counties, situated either easterly or westerly, can boast.

THE SURFACE

Sioux County, as well as Iowa in general, is no forest. The lumber with which we build our buildings comes out of the pine forests of Wisconsin or Minnesota. Ninety-nine percent of our county is prairie land with a soft, undulant surface, which permits good drainage of water. There are no hills or rocks which would hinder cultivation of the soil. Nowhere is there stagnant water or flat land. In this regard the land differs from that lying to the east and west of us. This waving of the land gives a beauty and simplicity which is impossible to describe in writing. From April to October there is only a carpet of green intermingled with myriads of wild flowers. This rolling prairie stretches itself out in all directions to the horizon, as far as the eye can see.

THE SOIL

This is from alluvial origin, formed out of a porous loam from two to six feet deep. The soil is exceptional in the residual of plant decay which has formed over centuries. In one of the Centennial buildings in

1876 there was an exhibition of 15,000 pounds of earth taken out of the 45 counties of the state. The exhibition consisted of a vertical section of the ground to a depth of six feet. The purpose of the exhibit was to show the world what Iowa was--lacking nothing. Here is the formation of the land as it came out of the working place of nature. The state geologist said of the soil "that it is famous for tis fruitfulness and that it was doubtful if there should be any place in the world with such a great surface of tillable land and with such exceptional fertility."

The mixture from the constituents of the soil which is found overall in Sioux County, gives a warmth and softness to the ground, which is so advantageous for the growth of crops, that they mature as well here as the tougher clay soils lying 200 miles to the south. The ground has the advantageous property that it can be cultivated soon after the spring frosts are over. Even though it should rain several days, as soon as it stops, the land can shortly be cultivated again.

In addition to this advantageous property, the ground has the ability to endure prolonged periods of drought. This is attributed to the fact that the subsoil, composed of clay-like loam, extends 60-70 feet, and is very porous, whereby the fluid from an incalculable deepness can be sucked to the surface. Nowhere is a soil found better suitable for the cultivation of wheat, corn, and other grains than that from Northwestern Iowa. And no one can say what the future will bring as the many yet fallow-lying acres will have been brought into cultivation.

CLIMATE

This is as in all of Iowa, sound and invigorating. Even the strong winter winds which come to us directly from the Rocky Mountains, are no longer feared. The artificially planted groves and the overall improvement brought over the prairies thereby, have tempered the ferocity of this icy

force. The deadly, moist atmosphere which in the summer weaken and dennervate and the chilly mists which elsewhere are the causes of so many fevers, are unknown in Northwestern Iowa. Whereas our latitude is that of central New York, we have a much healthier climate. During winter, rain is infrequent and everywhere it is clear and cold. The air is so dry and pure that the cold is not felt as much as in the humid areas of the east.

The farmers are in many cases busy with the harvest from their corn. Little snow falls here and sleigh riding is relatively uncommon. The roads are as good as in the east. The crowning beauty from this climate appears in the autumn as a very calm, soft atmosphere fills the skies. Day after day the sun sets in a sea of fire. At night the prairies are illuminated through the burning grass fields. Our artificial groves are covered with the most variegated tinted leaves and the entire nature appears to take on the charm of an enchanted land. The golden days go unfeelingly into winter.

In August, 1878, the corn in Wisconsin, Illinois, and other states was significantly damaged through night frosts. In Sioux County there was no damaging frost before late in September. It is an undeniable fact that damaging night frosts occur later in the fall than in more easterly or southerly lying states. The Smithsonian Institute attributes this to the high elevation of Northwestern Iowa. It is the highest plateau 300 miles in an easterly, and 200 miles in a westerly direction, and this is why the area is free from mists. "The world shows itself off grandly", and we might add to this, "particularly when one approaches the Missouri."

Thursday, June 5, 1879

THE COLONY OF THE NETHERLANDERS

This is situated in the southeastern part of Sioux County, encompassing

the townships of Holland, Nassau, West Branch, Sherman and Floyd with Orange City the county seat of the county in its middlepoint, and East Orange as its railway station and trade center. In 1877 140,000 bushels of wheat were sent out from this station. Its agent told the author that there was no station between Sioux City and Mankato, St. James itself not excluded, that had so much business as the station in East Orange.

This Dutch colony was organized and went out from Pella, Marion County, Iowa, under the leadership of Mr. Henry Hospers.

In 1847 a great number of Dutch came directly out of Netherlands under the leadership of the minister Scholte and settled in Marion County. In the same year a larger colony of Dutch settled in Ottawa County, Michigan. The Pella colony grew and prospered so much through the continual arrival of new immigrants out of the Netherlands, that within a few years all good, tillable land was claimed. The difficulty to find a solution increased each year and lay heavily on the hearts of many parents who were unable to support their growing families on the small farms. And there was no place for their children, when they became adults, to start their own homes. Rather than separate, the parents chose to break away with their children and to share with them the hardships and testings of a new establishment.

A colonization society was organized, and H. Hospers was named as chairman. A committee was appointed in the fall of 1869 to find a suitable place for colonization in Northwestern Iowa. This committee consisted of S.A. Sipma, H. Muilenburg and Jelle Pelmulder and left quickly in order to fulfill its commission. They traveled northwest to Cherokee, about 250 miles from Pella. Here the members of the committee were so taken in with the Little Sioux River with her clear waters, gleaming in the beautiful sunlight against the immeasuralbe prairies, still untouched by the diligent hand of civilization, that they decided to establish the new colony right there and to insure the born right of every American

citizen to have a good home. They returned with high spirits to Pella, filled with happy hope and expectation.

After their return home, there was an open meeting where the committee told of their adventures. They told of glorious things concerning the northwest and the account was reported in the Pella newspapers. On this basis a new committee was established consisting of H. Hospers, L. van der Meer, and D. van der Bos. The first named went per train to Sioux City, the other two went to Cherokee where they planned to meet Mr. Hospers. When Mr. Hospers arrived in the Sioux City land office, he found that most of the land in and around Cherokee had been bought up by land speculators--that was the costly fruit from the "glorious newspaper report."

Mr. Hospers discovered in Sioux City that Sioux County had even better land than that in Cherokee. The three then headed for Sioux County. They climbed a long, gentle stepwise route from the low riverlands of the Floyd and passed the boundary of Plymouth County. They unpacked their instruments and began, following the rules of surveying, to seek the different sections and to drive poles in to indicate that the land was taken.

Thereafter they traveled about two miles northwards where presently Orange City lies and were enraptured with the beautiful rolling grasslands. They rejoiced that the plan had failed in Cherokee as they were more taken in with the land in Sioux County.

From two miles to the northwest of Orange City they directed their chains a mile eastward and thereafter southward to the place where the windmill now stands. Here they were in view of the Floyd River. Who can say what must have gone through their hearts when they stood on this elevated point, from which they saw nothing but the wonderfully beautiful waving grassland, which finally melted into the blue heaven, while their eyes were fixed on the reedy, leafy green of the Floyd River willows. From this point they measured the land along the section line, where presently the way from Orange City to East Orange is laid, their measuring

posts sitting on each section corner. When they were busy rolling their measuring chains, they suddenly saw in the distance two Indians on horseback riding over the rolling prairie. In the twinkling of an eye they approached the surveyors.

The Indians indicated that they not only found the golden watch chain of Mr. Hospers pretty but that they would like to have it. Mr. Hospers offered to exchange the chain for their ponies but the Indians didn't want anything to do with this and disappeared. They had a hunting camp on the other side of the Floyd, where presently Hendriksens live.

Mr. Hospers and his party set up their tent overnight, close by the Floyd where the water reserve of the Sioux City and St. Paul Railway is located now. That night D. van de Bos was assigned to stand watch for the Indians. At 11 p.m. he called alarmingly, "The Indians are coming!" All ran outside but could find nothing except a large weed, that shaken and moved by the wind was mistaken by van de Bos for an Indian. It appeared in the morning that the two Indians had broken camp and since then there have been no more Indians seen in Sioux County.

As soon as the necessary land measurements were done, Mr. Hospers returned to the land office in Sioux City. He wrote two nights and one day with right and left hand and submitted 182 names for which he sought preemption. Neither earlier or later were there so many applications introduced to this office. After this, the committee returned to Pella, having been gone three weeks. They gave their report, but this time not in a public meeting. The experience in Cherokee had given a lesson in caution.

In the same autumn of 1869, 20 wagons with two horses each were sent from Pella to Sioux County for the purpose of tearing or breaking up five acres on each claim so that the claims were insured to be legal. In this company there was only one woman, named Vennema, and was named the "mother of the colony." She was the first white woman who walked the

soil of Sioux County east of Calliope. She is still living and she, her husband and offspring, find pleasure in the pioneer days. At the beginning of winter, this company returned to Pella.

In the spring of 1870 about 60 households packed up their wagons, covered with white canvas, and left for good for the new colony. Since that time there has been a continuous increase in population, as is still the case. Especially in the spring one sees the "prairie boats with white sails," approach from all directions. They come from Pella, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, even from New York and not a small number from Netherlands.

Presently we have five organized towns in this colony, which includes 300 members of the Reformed Church of Orange City and 100 members in the East Orange church. The county has 21 schools, and the county seat is in the middle point, at Orange City. Three newspapers are published here in two languages. They are De Volksvriend, the Sioux County Herald, and the Independent. And all this on a spot where ten years ago there was no trace of a white person.

Presently we see here great and clean groves, with rich and well-kept farms of which it is difficult to find an equal in Northwestern Iowa.

Whenever we tell visitors that 10 years ago there was nothing to see but a continuous prairie without a single house, no tree or hedge with the exception of along the Floyd River, they can hardly believe it. The descendants of that people who struggled to preserve their land from the attacks of the ocean, those descendants of Netherlands have learned here to make fruitful an uninhabited land.

Thriftiness, careful decisions, diligence and hard work will not fail everywhere, but will especially provide an abundant harvest in fertile soil. It is attributed to these virtues that the county debts were paid immediately and without discount. The issuance of exchange letters of the county were immediately paid in cash, 100 cents per dollar, an indication that the Old

Dutch saying is not forgotten here: "honor is the best diplomacy."

In the writing of this history from Sioux County and the there established Dutch colony, we have not been content with speculation but have used only actual fact. What the results can be from this great congregation of people and the related increase in prosperity, we do not know. Our responsibility is great, just like the blessings and privileges which we enjoy. We cannot abandon our daily responsibility to ensure that this beautiful land will be a continuous inheritance for our children and children's children and that justice and peace will always characterize it.

Whenever there is anything said in the history of this county and its wonderful beginning, particularly its Dutch element, the places from which the people came can be justifiably proud, Mother Pella above all does not have to be ashamed of her daughter in Northwestern Iowa. Our status here is molded out of the immigration from Pella and other regions.

Free labor, free schools, freedom of speech and press, freedom of religion, freedom of mankind of both sexes, were gifts from their part. Our county and colony is simply the rightful descendant of a civilization whose most sacred expression has been in the building of other towns and counties. This colony is not established through the oppression from her fatherland's government (under WilliamI) but the natural result from the overflowing of the natural life, strength and enterprise of the people, received through the obedience to the sacred command to multiply and to increase for which the Dutch people are known and of which they need not be ashamed.

This wonderful increase and blossoming is but the result of the character of the population and in irrefutable proof of the truth that "righteousness elevates a people." The Dutch colony at present is greatly, if not entirely, indebted to the Reformed Church in America and the fact that it has been supported by the Reformed mother church in the eastern states.

The secretary of domestic missions, Rev. Joe West, visited this colony shortly after it was established. And since then the Reformed Church has had a full, great and double share in that which we name our own. Through her support and sympathy, two teachers have already settled here; a third is expected in a couple of days a fourth in several months. What Dr. West said was no idle prediction but has almost completely been fulfilled. "I regard Sioux County as the greatest and most promising mission place which we have."

Thursday, June 12, 1879

TESTING AND DIFFICULTIES

However fruitful the ground or how diligent the farmer, yet the challenges and difficulties with the first settlement were very great. Here applies the Dutch saying, "All beginnings are difficult." A foremost cause of this was the poverty of the people. Many had little on which to begin except health and courage and the family heirlooms. Here they came into a broad, rich prairie land where there was no house or store to be found, no piece of bread to be obtained, or flour from which to bake it.

The nearest market place was Sioux City, a distance of 45 miles. One cannot call this one of the pleasures of life to travel over an unmarked prairie in order to buy a sack of flour or fetch a letter. In such a land flour and foodstuff are all very expensive. For a year and a half the first colonists had to live from hand to mouth. The prairie must lie fallow one whole year after it has been plowed. The sod is then sufficiently rotted so that sowing can commence the following season. It is a vexing and difficult thing for poor people to work an entire year and longer without any returns or harvesting one's own crops. With the utmost thriftiness and the most patient work, they were able to make every cent count.

Many lived weeks and months in their covered wagons. There was no time to build buildings. The prairie must be turned so that the following year seed could be sowed and planted. One person told the writer that he had

plowed three weeks without seeing another human being with the exception of his family, all of who resided in their covered wagon. From morning to evening he saw nothing but his oxen and an unlimited prairie.

After the plowing of the grassland was completed in July, they were ready to build houses. This was far from being an easy task in a region where there was no building material present. Wood and metal had to be hauled from Le Mars, a distance of 20 miles, or from Sioux City, 45 miles away. Many had only a pair of oxen for that work. Naturally the first houses were small and uncomfortable. It is easy to understand that difficulties and hardships were numerous in the early period. These hardy pioneers had the strength, trust and patience to build the way for a future of prosperity and success, if not for them, then for those who followed. It is a great thing to settle and to have the feeling that one grows up with the region.

All these hardships belong to a bygone era. Now a few acres of prepared land can be rented almost everywhere for a year's time to help out the newcomer. The railroad companies and land agents have tilled a number of acres in almost every section so that newcomers can immediately begin with sowing and planting, and can harvest wheat and corn already the first year. Building lumber can presently be purchased at East Orange where there are two lumber yards. And as far as stores go, they can be found in all corners of the street, filled with the most choice goods.

On one matter there is great need, which is felt daily and more acutely as the colony grows and the harvest from the rich soil increases, namely a steam mill to grind the dozens of bushels of wheat into flour. Such a mill would pay for itself in a few years. In 1871, of each 15 acres sown with wheat per farm a very rich harvest of 20-30 bushel per acre was produced. The following year, 1872, a great amount of land, plowed the previous summer, was very fruitful and a rich harvest rewarded the farmer for his labor, patience and endurance.

During the year 1872 the Sioux City and St. Paul Railroad was completed and ran in a south-north direction through the colony. The route opened for us the great lumber market from Minnesota and Wisconsin and the coal mines of Iowa and provided a good marketplace for our wheat close at home and for what else we cultivated.

Hereafter followed the bands of the loan sharks, to take advantage of the needs of poor and industrious people and who were a source of objection and difficulties. With these came the army of salesmen for agricultural equipment. The people were poor and had no money with which to purchase this equipment. The salesmen had to sell and money was borrowed at 10% interest, with promissary notes, insured through mortgages on personal property. Almost everyone was in debt. Being unable to read English and unacquainted with the law, they were even easier led "down the primrose path." The promissary notes and the resulting debt was the greatest single cause for all the difficulties and miseries of the first colonists.

These smooth-talking, honey-tongued salesmen knew all too well how to confront the unsuspecting farmers. They praised the quality of the prairie land and how he could work many more acres with the help of their machinery which they could sell to him so cheaply. They made mention of rich harvest and high market prices for all market products. A good harvest could more than two times repay the cost of the necessary machinery. They said, "you cannot work as they do in the east where a man seeks to obtain his daily bread on a sand or gravel hill. You must have machinery. Everyone has them. You must keep up with your neighbor." And so was the poor farmer enticed to buy more than he had need of. He made a leap where he should have gone forth carefully step by step, buying this year what he could pay for and putting off buying to another year if he could. Unfortunately the following crop did not materialize as predicted. The farmer was happy enough if he had enough for bread, food and seedcorn for himself and enough feed for his cattle. Now came the effort to pay off the loan. It

was the time which indicated what good stock they were, the descendants of a people who had fought for religious and civil freedom in the Netherlands for eighty years.

The spirit of the fathers has not died out in the children. They have the courage and trust to endure each testing and become the founders of a great and expansive colony. It should be mentioned that Mr. Henry Hospers, a leader and establisher of the Dutch colony, has been a worthy adviser in many ways and under innumerable circumstances has saved many from hardships. He stood faithfully by his people in the darkest days, providing help and advice and courage, both material and spiritual. Whenever every way out appeared gone, he could find the means of a solution. Whoever came to him for advice or help, left not only encouraged, but in one way or another relieved from his pressing cares.

And now the early strugglers enjoy the reward of their self-denial in the time of adversity, even more than they could hope for. Many of those who eight years ago arrived with no more than a yoke of oxen, a wagon, a plow, and bed and stove would not sell out for 3,000 dollars presently. No well kept farm can be purchased in this region, an indication that the people are not only satisfied but that it is a rich land, where people were able to arise out of poverty and adversity to claim wealth.

Now that all is behind us and our commercial capabilities are doubled through the railroads, which cross our country in all directions, the county offers newcomers and investors opportunities which few counties can match. In view of what has been accomplished in the last nine years, anyone who comes here to visit or to settle must marvel over the blossoming and growth which has been wrought here. In all directions up to 15-16 miles from the city, attractive farmyards with lush groves stand where nine years ago there was nothing but unending prairie. Let a stranger testify himself, "Ten years ago there were no trees to be seen, no acres plowed, no house," and he would exclain: "Is that possible? Are the groves so young, is this

improvement so recent? The towns and villages are only nine years old?" "Certainly," would the answer be, "and all this has been carried out through a people who came here almost without money. Indeed, it is a great, rich land here."

The Honorable O. O. Squires, Iowa agent for the American Bible Society who has traveled over the entire state on business, said to the writer: "You have the best part of Iowa as far as beauty of landscape and richness of soil are concerned, I know of no other area like this.

In spite of what the settlement had to endure, there was always enough to eat and a chance to save a little. In 1877, which was a grasshopper year, there was 140,000 bushel Number one wheat sold in East Orange, which certainly was not a half of that harvested. Those who live in the southern and south-eastern part bring their wheat to Seney and Le Mars, while those to the north go to Sheldon. In that grasshopper year there were thus at least 280,000 bushels of wheat harvested without mentioning that of corn, flax, rye and oats. The past year was perhaps the worst since the establishment of the colony. Not only here, but in almost the whole northwest, the wheat was hit by a grain disease called blight, a result of the pounding rains which followed terrible heat. The product fell below the market price although this rejected wheat still produced excellent flour. It was certainly the result of this that the farmers had little or no marketable wheat and had a shortage of cash, but apparently were no worse off in this regard than in other regions which were more established.

We wish to leave the impression on the readers that in the worst days, including the grasshopper years, these people had bread in abundance and wheat to sell. What should it have been like if there had been no grasshoppers?

June 19, 1879

GRASSHOPPERS

Another great cause of disappointment, which tested the courage of many, was the grasshopper plague, which first appeared in the summer of 1873.

These insects have been and still are the scarecrows and bogeymen which keep many away from Northwestern Iowa. This is the only valid objection to this territory. And truly, none who has not himself experienced the destructive power of the grasshopper can comprehend it or express it. Their organization and habits make them so wonderfully adapted for their work of destruction. Strong, working with military-like discipline, armed with powerful jaws and equipped with great digestive capacity and ability to procreate, strong in wings, assisted through numberous airsacks in flying, all this makes the grasshopper a fearful tool of destruction.

By oneself apparently insignificant, but as a flock powerful, the grasshopper falls on the land as a plague and in a few hours transforms a green and promising field into a naked, barren expanse of sticks and stubble. They devour a grainfield quicker than a herd of hungry cattle. Even when recognizing how the land west of the Mississippi was attacked in 1873 and 1874 there was no need for the people to give up or stay behind because of the grasshopper. The Hessian fly, the wheat moth, the weevil and the chinch bug are insects of more concern. The chinch bug is a yearly, always increasing plague. The grasshopper shows up only now and then. The grasshopper misery in 1873-74 should not have been repeated if the people had known how to defend themselves and to protect their harvest. Men were in a condition of complete ignorance then.

The local paper did not dare to speak a word of grasshoppers, for fear of hindering immigration. Many did not know how to defend their crops against the grasshoppers and how to destroy their eggs. The right way is not always to conceal the bad or to deny through silence, but rather to place it in the open in order to find a cure. The author proposes to drive this plague out of Northwestern Iowa. The facts and commentaries concerning the history and customs of the grasshopper are taken out of

the report of the state-appointed entomologic commission, whereby the writer adds his own comments and experiences. These are no imaginations or theories but definite and reliable facts.

It is perhaps generally known that the young grasshoppers have no wings and that they first get them the last of June, six or eight weeks after they have hatched. Whereas the destruction of the winged grasshoppers is more rapid and complete, the destruction brought about by the wingless, smaller grasshoppers is slower but more extensive. It makes the landscape of the middle summers as naked as in the heart of winter. The little creatures are often so numerous right after hatching that it looks as if the fields are covered with a black tint.

WHERE THE EGGS ARE LAID

This occurs in the just-broken land, in land not grown over and which is firm and not loose. As a rule that soil was preferred, the young can mature unhindered, namely in firm, well-stamped hillsides, and preferably on the south or southeast slope. Old plowed land is avoided because the ground is too loose. In abnormal and unhealthy situations it may occur that they are laid there but the eggs are not protected by a hole and then shall surely perish.

MANNER IN WHICH THE EGGS ARE LAID

The female first bores a hole in the ground and then secretes a foamy, sticky fluid that covers the bottom of the hole. Therein she lays 20 to 35 eggs. The slimy stuff binds all the eggs to one mass and as soon as the last egg is laid, the mother insect is busy covering the narrow entrance with a thick cellulose-like material. First it is soft and liquid, but it hardens quickly and is extremely well protected and water free.

It is clear that hard ground is the preferred site wherein the hole can be properly drilled. This cannot occur in loose ground and the eggs will be disturbed. The mass of eggs seldom lies deeper than a thumb beneath the surface.

THE PROCESS OF HATCHING

The outside capsule of the egg mass is very breakable and is made more brittle through the frost. The inner wall is so tough that a powerful pressure between the thumb and finger is necessary to crush it. How can the embryo, that is packed in so tightly, free itself?

The hard bird egg is easily broken by the beak of its inhabitant. The young grasshopper is not so equipped and cannot in such a manner help. Through the muscle exertion of the newborn insect against the wall of the hole, it is pressed to the outside. The firmer the ground, the easier for the young insect to find its way outside, while the young grasshopper whose egg was laid in soft ground, cannot escape and usually succumbs. In such an area they are present in small numbers, if at all.

History verifies this fact. For a long time people feared for grasshoppers in Illinois but when the immigration moved westward and the land cultivated, the grasshopper disappeared so that today they are not found 50 miles east of us. Where there is no freshly broken land, there are no eggs laid and thus no new generation. This is completely confirmed by research and brings the grasshopper question to an end.

Whenever the prairies are entirely tilled, the grasshopper will disappear. We now find ourselves already on the eastern boundary from the present domain of the grasshoppers. Five miles to the east they are to be found no more. There is no reason why man should avoid Sioux County or to be made anxious by those who have already packed up their tents.

HABITS OF THE YOUNG WINGLESS INSECTS

Although equipped with remarkable strength as soon as they leave the egg they usually remain on the fields where they were hatched, as long as they can find adequate sustenance and therefore cause little concern. As soon as the supply is exhausted, they begin to migrate and devour all

grain and garden crops which they find in their way. As long as they are young and yet small, as in the first, second or third phase, they hide out during the night and also during the day. Whenever they become strong and numerous, they move over the grain fields and eat it close to the ground. Cold and damp weather is advantageous for the grain and disadvantageous for the grasshoppers. Then the grain grows so rapidly that they can cause very little damage.

It is whenever they become numerous and strong enough to lay bare the ground, (generally when they are half grown) that they develop the tendency to migrate in great swarms. The destructive abilities increase. First they destroy the plants on neighboring fields and then slowly spread out. Whenever they have destroyed a landscape, they must seek their food elsewhere and die in uncountable numbers because of starvation. This gluttony increases until they have undergone their peeling as larva, and have become a chrysalis. From that time on they decrease in number, die quickly of sickness, or become prey for their predators, and not a small number, in the defenseless state of chrysalis, become prey of the gluttony of their own sort. Those which obtain wing ascend into the air in the warmest part of the day and fly with the wind as far as it will carry them to their birthplace in the northwest. Most are susceptible to disease or are afflicted with parasites and wherever they descend do relatively little harm.

METHODS AND ATTEMPTS FOR DESTRUCTION

This consists first of all in the destruction of the eggs. This can occur through harrowing and plowing.

1. Harrowing in the fall. The breaking of the egg clumps and the exposing therefore of the eggs to the drying process of the atmosphere destroys them. From this we immediately see the importance of this method of combating the enemy. The goal must be the pulverizing of the soil to a depth of one and one half thumbs. Where a cultivator is used, it is

recommended to go over the ground once more with a tree branch unit. From the manner of egg laying, as described above, it follows that every egg clump which is broken or brought to the surface is destroyed. The harrowing must not be done carelessly but as carefully as possible.

A farmer, three miles to the north of East Orange, had a piece of newly broken land seeded with wheat, applying one bushel per acre with the sowing machine. Following this he reapplied a half bushel per acre and then he harrowed and reharrowed the land. The result is that the wheat stood well and there are no grasshoppers. This is an indication that it is sound to harrow both in the fall and spring. By this means the eggs can be destroyed on just-plowed grassland. Likewise all roads and open and uncultivated places must be thoroughly harrowed in the fall. This is required by the law..

2. Plowing: This is another method to destroy grasshopper eggs. The plowing must reach a depth of about six thumbs and the land then disked. Then, when the eggs hatch, the young insects are unable to reach the surface.

DESTROYING THE YOUNG GRASSHOPPERS

It is not without pride that we may clain the fact that the part of the locust question is solved. These are the words of the Entymology Commission of the United States. The investigation of 1877 has concluded that with suitable means, effort and cooperation, the farmer can fight the grasshopper with good results and he can defend his crops against grasshoppers with less work and effort than against weeds. Farmers themselves are amazed what can be done in this regard by the initiation of these measures. And almost unanimously it is felt that one has no serious fear of grasshoppers in the future whenever the eggs are destroyed.

The means by which to destroy young grasshoppers are as follows:

1. Burning. The method can be carried out easily in prairie and wheat-bearing land. There is an abundance of straw and hay which can be bunched up in piles and long strips and into which the young grasshoppers can be driven and burned. During cold and damp weather they creep into such piles by themselves. Also we have said that it is the custom of a young grasshopper to find cover at night. Straw in clumps or straw and hay in rows are places where the insects will go to at night and likewise can be easily burned. Much effort is made to prevent the prairie fires in the spring and fall. It should be supported by a law adhered to strictly. Whenever the prairie fires were postponed until the mass of the grasshoppers were hatched, then all these would be destroyed. Whenever a farmer's harvest is destroyed by grasshoppers, then it is his own fault. Save the straw with which to burn the grasshoppers.

The following method can be used to destroy them in gardens: Take a long iron rod, say 40 feet long. Wrap old rags around it and saturate these with petroleum. A thin piece of iron wire is wound around the rags in order to secure them in place. The rags are then set on fire and then dragged all over the garden by two men until the fuel is all consumed. Even a large grainfield can be saved in this manner. The results are that of a small prairie fire. Or dig a channel around the garden and protect the garden.

2. Digging a gully. This is another method. A simple furrow two feet wide and two feet deep with perpendicular walls offers a satisfactory barrier against the small insects. They fall in, pile up and soon perish in masses on the bottom. It is the habit of the insects to travel in troops. Dig a trench right in their path or around your field and your crops are made secure. Whenever they swarm into the trench, throw in some straw, ignite it, and your enemy is gone.

The direction in which they are moving can be ascertained and if farmers work together, they can dig a long trench which will protect more than one farm. The utility hereby lies in either the inability or unwilliness of the grasshopper to jump or creep out. On the bottom of the trench they become discouraged, injure themselves and become exhausted through their fruitless attempts to escape as they crawl all over each other. The trench must be kept up. The sides must not cave in but remain perpendicular.

This method of handling is, after burning, the most direct way to rid oneself of the young grasshopper, but this is often too costly and labor-consuming in a newly-settled area where the farmer must do all by himself. The best way is to destroy the eggs. No eggs, no insects!

3. Kerosene and Tar. The first is a sure and inexpensive medium to destroy young grasshoppers. The poisoning quality on these insects is remarkable. A few drops kills a great number. Take an ordinary plank 12-14 feet long. Make a tin trough four thumbs deep, six thumbs wide. Divide the trough in divisions, each a foot long, in order to prevent the spilling of the oil. Place under this apparatus three wooden rollers, in order to make it moveable. Fill the trough half full with water, pour over this a thin layer of petroleum, enough to cover the surface of the water. Attach a rope to it and connect it to a horse. The lightness of this equipment makes it possible for use on many fields. The grass-hopper springs in this trough as it is pulled over the field and two minutes after being covered with oil, they are dead. A youth with a horse can in just a few days save a grain field with this kerosene machine.

One can see that grasshoppers can be easier destroyed than a field of corn can be cleaned of weeds. By a systematic, united and persistent approach, all young grasshoppers can be eliminated from a region in a short time.

DESTRUCTION OF THE WINGED GRASSHOPPER

Whenever they descend on a region in countless multitudes, the above methods are of no use. One stands powerlessly against the enemy. The only method to save a grainfield is in burning a smoky fire in order to change the directions of the swarms.

In a wheat-producing land as Sioux County, straw is in surplus. One can stack it up in all portions of the field and then leave the stacks undisturbed until the locust descend from the sky. Then the farmers in one or more townships on a given moment set the straw on fire, pouring on tar to slow the burning and increase the smoke, and the joint burning will drive the insects away. By systematic and united effort much can be done to change the direction of the swarms. But the need for community cooperation cannot be emphasized too much and in passing of legislation to advise and enforce useful methods. There are always in every community those who are unwilling to do anything to avert an impending curse. These indifferent men often bring complete misfortune over themselves and their suffering neighbors. There must be legislation to enforce the measures on every sound man: In the fall one or more days to work together to destroy the grasshoppers and in the spring the killing of the young insects. After all, all these measures, enumerated above, have been proven to be sound in various areas and should be unconditionally approved by every reasonable, thinking man. This research has been proven as being effective.

MULTIPLE CROP AGRICULTURE

It is wrong to be dependent on a single farm product to support a family. There is need to have more change in products. There exists too great a love for big farms in general and for wheat farms in particular. It makes more sense to have more numerous sources of income than to expect everything from one source.

No land region is more suitable than Sioux County for cattle breeding. There is good water and plentiful grass. Sickness in cattle is unknown.

The climate is favorable and invigorating. Our wool, beef, butter and cheese are second to none when given the necessary care. At the International Exhibit in Minneapolis the prize for milk products was given to Northwestern Iowa. The same honor was given Iowa at the Centennial Exhibit. There is no good reason why each farmer cannot raise 50-100 head of cattle. The pasture costs nothing. The hay involves the effort of mowing and hauling it in. The corn can be fed to pigs. Hog cholera is not known here. Should the wheat harvest fail, then not all is lost and actually it should scarcely be felt. Rotation of crops is always to be recommended, not only from the standpoint of grasshoppers, but in every respect. And from this follows the irrefutable fact that the more often he will be disappointed and the quicker he will exhaust the richness of the soil.

CONCLUDING CONSIDERATIONS

1. Grasshoppers do not as a rule lay their eggs in loose and cultivated ground. Whenever all our prairies are cultivated, the grasshopper plague will belong to the past. The grasshopper moves westward with the stream of civilization. At present we lie at the boundary. Two miles to the east of East Orange there are no more grasshoppers found.

2. Their eggs can easily be destroyed through diligent effort in the fall and by plowing deeply.

3. The young insect can easily be destroyed by burning, the digging of trenches, or by kerosene. Men can divert the grasshopper swarm through smoking.

4. Rotation of crops and livestock is the wisest and most advantageous method of farming.

5. Grasshoppers are not as great a trouble as other insects or weevils, chinch bugs, etc., which are not to be found in Sioux County. The last named are a yearly plague. The grasshoppers appear only periodically and can be more easily held in check.

The newcomers certainly suffered much from them. As we have mentioned, the grasshoppers first showed themselves in June, 1873. They then destroyed in a few hours all the corn and oats and caused much damage on the wheat and at a time when the people were ready to reap the rewards of their patience and hard work. This was especially a hard blow on those who had bought a pair of horses, plow and further farm tools on credit. The grasshoppers remained in Sioux County until about July, 1877, coming back each year and not doing as much damage as men in the eastern states presume.

When I visited this region in 1877, I thought I would find an impoverished and demoralized people; to my amazement, I found no such persons here. Certainly some suffered more, others less. Yet they had at least enough food for their households, and seed for the following year. I was rightly amazed over the great improvement brought about in less than seven years, of which three had been grasshopper years, and one had a harvest failure because of an extraordinarily wet summer. There was more wheat damaged that year, 1875-76, than ever had been by grasshoppers and this was the darkest year in the history of Sioux County.

In September, 1878, the grasshoppers again showed themselves, did little damage, but filled the newly-plowed sod with myriads of eggs. These have presently hatched and have thoroughly damaged the wheat in certain places. The poorness of the crops is caused less by the grasshoppers than by the drought, which occurred in the Western states in the spring. The delayed germination resulted in the simultaneous appearance of the grasshoppers and the growth of the wheat. Had the seed germinated and begun to grow as in other years, the grasshoppers should not have brought about so much damage. The wheat on old land promises a rich harvest and those who this past year destroyed the grasshopper eggs in their newly plowed land have the promise of the best wheat this coming year.

The greatest problem was that the people were unacquainted with the proper method of getting rid of the grasshopper eggs. If this paper convinces people here, as elsewhere, of the efficacy of the method of destroying the eggs and young insects with little effort and expense, then it will have demonstrated one of the greatest gifts to Sioux County.

We advise each reader to save this issue and if possible to see that everyone receives a copy. Would that each local paper in the west print the contents of this article. Provide enlightenment and knowledge to the people regarding all important questions. May they know that the grasshoppers can be more easily combated than weeds, and that East Orange is already the boundary line which separates us from the temporary grasshopper domain, and that we probably will never again be visited by grasshoppers after this year.

June 26, 1879

FOOTNOTES REGARDING THE GRASSHOPPERS

Since the writing of our article over the grasshoppers, a mass of eggs have hatched and the small insects have caused much damage in many places. What the influence may be on the following harvest is hard to say.

The places where the eggs are presently hatched and the habits of the insects are somewhat different from what we had mentioned previously. The following serves as clarification.

The last season and year cannot be regarded as ordinary. The spring-time was unusually dry. From October until May 12 we had very little rain and during the winter almost no snow. For all practical purposes we had almost no rain in these months. The grasshoppers, which laid their eggs here, came very late in September. As a result of the failure of the wheat harvest this year, the reasons which were previously given, the old land lay almost barren and the crust became very hard. Because of this, one found eggs on old tilled land, which would not have been the

case otherwise. It is therefore well established that whenever all the land is tilled, the grasshopper will disappear unless they will bring us an unwanted visit from elsewhere.

Whatever it may be, the eggs can be destroyed if a serious effort is made. Also, the young grasshopper can be killed through burning, trenching, and petroleum. It is foolish to say that nothing can be done. It is easier to protect crops against grasshoppers, and with less cost, than to rid the fields of weeds.

The greatest setback lies not so much in the grasshopper's destruction than in the great drought that covered the entire west. And still the crop may turn out better than people think, better than elsewhere where the army worm and chinchbug caused much destruction. Because of the continuous emigration into Dakota, it can almost with certainty be stated that this year will be the last that the grasshoppers are a threat. If the past history speaks the truth, it is safe to assume that we have had the most of the locust visits.

CHURCHES

Whereas we only deal with the Reformed Church, it is not our intention to show any preferential treatment or to ignore the other churches in Sioux County. The reason is only that the writer is better acquainted with the Reformed Church there and that this denomination is more closely connected with the Dutch Colonization.

The Reformed Church is the oldest on this western continent and one of the oldest in the world. It arose in the Netherlands in the middle of the storm of persecution and civil upheaval. The Netherlands, as well as the rest of Europe, lay under the darkness and curse from popery in the fifteenth century. God's word was hidden, human traditions were followed, the instruction of the gospel was held back. Whenever a weak light broke through, it was quickly extinguished. But at the appropriate time the torch was lit which should never more be hid. Two young

Gronigers, Jan Wessel and Rudolf Agricola, 50 years before Luther, were the morning stars of the Reformation. They studied the writings and came to the rediscovery of the doctrine of justification through faith in Christ. The seed, spread by them, came to life in the Reformation. The gospel was proclaimed, the Bible accepted as the only guideline in life and belief. For a number of years these new followers of this creed practiced their belief in private and named themselves "The Churches of Netherlands under the Cross." In 1562 a confession of faith was made public, named the Belgic Confession because the writer was a Belgian by birth. It is the same as that which is confessed by the Reformed Church in this land.

The Heidelberg Catechism was introduced about the same time in the Dutch Reformed Church. These confessions of faith, along with the Synod of Dordt, are the confessional formulae of the Reformed Church. Much weight is attached to these, not because they have power in themselves but in so far as they bring the truth of God to light.

In the ascertaining of truth we always call on the Word of God. "Thus says the Lord" brings an end to all doctrinal questions.

With such principles the church of Holland sent her children to the new world and they have been upheld without change by the Reformed Church in America.

The Reformed suffered much in the Netherlands under Charles V and still more under his son Philip, who sent an army of 10,000 men under the command of the bloodthirsty Duke of Alva to stamp out the Reformation in the Netherlands. The Council of Troubles and the Council of Blood were established and the Spanish Inquisition brought into full working. The truth proclaimed by the Reformed Church withstood the test of persecution and suppression.

For these truths martyrs died triumphantly. These truths were preached through men as Whitefield, Verr, Harvey Berridge, Romaine,

Edwards and Davies.

This church established in this land is a church without a bishop, and a state without a king. Holland was the first of all new nations to have the right of freedom of conscience, of civil and religious freedom, and established a presbyterian or representative government. The elders and deacons were chosen by the congregation for a two year term.

THE REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA

The Reformed Church in America was established shortly after the discovery of Hudson. Dutch colonies were established along the Hudson River, the Mohawk Valley, on Long Island, in New Jersey, and in Pennsylvania. These colonies remained under the control of the Netherlands until 1664 when the English took over New York. Up until that time the city was named New Amsterdam; Brooklyn, Breukelen; Albanie, Fort Oranje. The entire colonies were named New Netherlands. These Dutch, true to their love of the church and the truth, soon saw the need for public worship service following the customs of the fatherland. They assembled on Sunday in an attic of a horse mill. Thus was the beginning of the public worship in New York. According to dependable sources a good-sized congregation was organized in New York as early as 1619. Thus there was a Reformed Church before the Pilgrims landed on Plymouth Rock. Our Calvinistic confession came to the coast of the new world 20 years before the Westminster Confession was written. The Reformed Church in America is not of recent origin. The old names of the churches point to the honorable age of this denomination. Consistory, classis, synod give irrefutable proof of this.

The Reformed Church stood in the beginning under the supervision of the Classis of Amsterdam. In 1771 the Articles of Union were accepted and the American Reformed Church was recognized as an independent entity. After the giving of New York to the English (1664), there was only light emigration out of Holland and therefore the Reformed Church was

found in greatest number where the Netherlanders settled first, namely New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. In 1815 the emigration out of Holland was renewed and some of them settled in the west of New York. In 1847 Dutch colonies in Michigan, Wisconsin and Iowa were established so that today Reformed Churches are found as far as Kansas. Recently a mission station has been formed in Dakota.

In 1794 the notes of the General Synod were written for the first time in English so that one can say that from that year on English was the official language of the Reformed Church.

We have spoken at length about this denomination so that newcomers in Sioux County should know who we are. Our actual character was recently expressed by the president of our General Synod as follows: "A mark of our church is her decision that each teacher preaches the old doctrine of the cross. We have a great respect for the truths of the Bible and that's no surprise. We have undergone the baptism of blood. Many of our members have suffered and died for the truth. The names of many martyrs are found in our church year books. The Reformed Chruch has always faithfully striven for the faith that has been delivered to the saints. And as such stands her history for the world."

The first Reformed Church in Sioux County was organized in Orange City May 6, 1871, by a commission appointed by the classis of Illinois, consisting of the honorable N.D. Williamson from Norris, Illinois, and the elder Gesman from Pella. The first church officers were M. Verheul, G. Versteeg, and T.J. Heemstra, elders; S.A. Sipma, W. van Roijen, and J. Pelmulder, deacons.

The first sermon was conducted in Orange City in July, 1870, lead by the Rev. Jan van der Meulen, at that time minister of the Reformed Church in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The Revs. E. Winter, Al Thompson of Pella, and P. de Pree from Bethel, Iowa, also preached.

On August 21, 1871, the congregation called the Rev. Seine Bolks as

shepherd and teacher. Most did not think that this call had much chance of success, in view of the fact that Father Bolks at that time was pastor of one of the largest congregations in Michigan, that from Zeeland. But the earnest prayers of the church in Orange City were heard. The Rev. S. Bolks arrived April 4, 1872, and was installed the last Sunday in April, 1872, by the Rev. E. Winter from Pella.

A better choice could not have been possible. The Rev. Bolks was a man of great experience, above all in the trials and tribulations of a new settlement. In 1847 he himself had emigrated with two ships of emigrants and had settled with them in the woods of Michigan. He had endured all the hardships and sufferings of the colonies in Michigan, and worked with the establishment of churches and schools, and assisted Dr. Van Raalte and C. van der Meulen. This made him the well-suited man for the church of the colony in Northwestern Iowa. Her success is to a great extent attributed to the labors of this his servant. He has been not only a support to his people in the spiritual but also in the earthly realm. And the winter of 1872 shall never be forgotten when the colony was visited by a gracious and mighty working of the Spirit.

Pastor Bolks remained active as minister of his congregation until August 1878, when he was declared emeritus because of his poor health and advanced age. Since that time the church has been vacant. This writer has preached for the congregation this past summer and winter in the Sunday afternoon service, three times each month. The consistory has extended a call to Rev. A. Buursma, who has accepted the call. He is expected the last Sunday in June. There are about 300 members at present.

Up until 1875 the congregation held its meeting in the schoolhouse. When this seemed to be too small, a side room was added to the north side which is closed during schooltime. This was made from rough planks. A table and chair stood on the end and served as the pulpit. Dr. M. Coh. Stuart preached in this building in November, 1873. He was a delegate

from Holland at the Evangelical Alliance which met that year in New York. The day of his preaching in Orange City shall not easily be forgotten. At that time it was revealed that a Christian woman from New York had given $4,000 for a church building in Orange City.

The building was begun in 1874. It is commodious and sound and can be seen in almost every direction from a distance of ten or more miles. This monument is a tribute to the character of the noble Christian woman who has given so much money for her poor brothers and sisters in the far west of Iowa.

THE REFORMED CHURCH OF EAST ORANGE

The Reformed Church of East Orange was organized May 18, 1877, by a commission appointed through the classis of Illinois and consisting of the Rev. S. Bolks of Orange City and the elder, H. Muilenburg. The number affiliated was 27. The first names officers were: B. Smits, R. Sneller, W.K. Scholten, R. Vos, elders; A.M. van den Berge, D. Gleijsteen, G.J. Hofmeijer, and H. de Kraai, deacons. A call was extended to the writer of this article, at that time minister of the Abbe Reformed Church at Clymer, New York.

In 1876 he had twice assisted as assistant pastor in Orange City. The call to East Orange was accepted and in June, 1878, he arrived and was installed by the Revs. S. Bolks and J. B. de Beer. With the help of the Board of Domestic Missions, a neat and convenient parsonage was built in the fall of 1877. Most of the money for this was contributed by the Sunday School of the Reformed Church of Flatbush, which was also instrumental in the obtaining of a pastor. During the first year of the present pastor, East Orange more than doubled its membership and at present counts about 100 members. Above all, a Sunday School was organized, which has more than 100 members on the list. Each Wednesday evening a prayer meeting is held. Sunday morning services are in Dutch, in the afternoon and evening in English.

There is great need for a church building. It occurs many times that churchgoers must stand outside. Many come an hour early in order to assume a sitting place. It was intended to begin the building of a church last fall; as a result of the failure of the wheat harvest this has been postponed to better times. The young grasshoppers have done so much damage this season that there can be no thought to build a church. And yet it is necessary, more than necessary.

THE REFORMED CHURCH OF WEST BRANCH

This was organized May 19, 1877, by the same committee that organized the congregation in East Orange. In the summer of that year they built a small chapel, which was enlarged in the spring of 1878. This congregation has no pastor at present and the pastor of East Orange has brought them a visit many times.

They are now building a parsonage and hope to be able to call a minister in the fall. The congregation has excellent prospects and there are valid reasons to think that they will shortly increase in number and will be self-sufficient. The Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad runs only a few miles distance from this church and the surrounding land is so beautiful and rich that they undoubtedly will be heavily populated within a few years.

The West Branch Church lies just 10 miles northwest of Orange City. Thus, there have arisen three very promising churches whereas 10 years ago there was no sign of civilization present. There are counties in NW Iowa, older and more densely populated, where as yet there is no church or pastor. Sioux County recognizes that this privilege exists because of the Reformed Church of the East which has helped and supported her.

Sioux County offers each newcomer the privilege of school and church which they can reasonably wish. There are already eight organized church congregations in Sioux County: Two are Methodist, one United Brethren, one Presbyterian, one Separatist (afgescheiden), and three Dutch Reformed.

GRASSHOPPERS

The following serves as clarification for what has been said about the grasshopper plague.

1. What I have written about the grasshoppers is from a scientific viewpoint and was taken from the report of the Entomology Commission appointed by the government of the United States and I am therefore not responsible for the theories expressed there. However, it remains true and much can be done for the destruction of the eggs.

2. What has been written is intended for one of the New York papers, as said at the beginning, with the purpose of awakening the favorable interest of our friends in the East for our sakes. So far the writings have already done good. In East Orange we already have great need for a church building. We cannot do this without help out of the East. And in order to receive this necessary help, it is above all necessary to resolve the important question of the grasshoppers. In order to do this, I have given the scientific report of the above named commission. This would influence each well-thinking person.

3. And now we add a word to us who are touched and oppressed by the plague. It is right, friends and brothers, to use all means which God has given us through science, to the fighting of a plague and to curing it, but we must not stop at that. The evil, the plague, the hardship must drive us to God. We hear many complaints about the grasshoppers but the right complaints about it we have not heard. There is most likely much done by some for the destruction of the grasshoppers but what should ultimately be done has not yet occurred. Beloved, we are convinced in our hearts that it shall occur when we all as one man strive to end this plague.

Read the history of our church which you find in this number of the Volksvriend and see what God has done for his people and church. He is still the same God. He says in Malachi: "Bring all the tithes into the store-

house...If you do, I will open up the window of heaven for you and pour out a blessing so great that you won't have room to take it in. Your crops will be large, for I will guard them from insects and plagues." God says, I shall do it. What more do we need for help and salvation? Is it not our own fault that we are in this misery? That everyone may be a debtor in the sight of God! Now I would like to see that a gathering of God's people is organized to pray with one another that God will save us. "It shall happen, at eventime, that the light shall appear." (Zach. 14:7)

July 3, 1879

SCHOOLS AND ORGANIZATIONS

There are already 60 school houses in Sioux County, wherein regular instruction is given by licensed teachers. Twenty of these are located in the Dutch colony. Immediately after her establishment two were built, one in Orange City, the other in the district of S.A. Sipma.

It is a peculiar characteristic of the Dutch to have a special love for the education of the youth. The first indication of this was given by the Leiden citizens who established a University when they made the choice between freedom from taxation or the receiving of their own university after their famous long-lasting siege ended. This university has since then received international recognition for its excellence.

The Dutch have always upheld their interest in the education of their children. Incidentally, we might interject that foreign experts have expressed the opinion that even if there were no mandatory school attendance laws as the Prussians have, the attendance of the Dutch lower schools should exceed that of all other lands.

When they came to this land in the seventeenth century the schoolmaster was regarded almost as indispensible as the preacher. Commonly the schoolmaster would act as 'voorlezer' and 'voorzanger' (leading in worship and singing) at the church services, and he was given the authority to administer the sacraments, at least in the small congregations.

Church and school stood beside each other. The first Dutch inhabitants of this great land saw to the establishment of a college and received a charter from King George III in 1770. It was named Rutgers College in 1825 in honor of Col. Rutgers of New York. This is now the oldest institution of that sort in North America and is located in New Brunswick, New Jersey, 30 miles south of the metropolis.

Through the same diligence and love for educational institutions, the Dutch of Michigan took immediate measures to establish an institution of middle education and later higher education. Thereafter the Academy and later the college, Hope, arose.

True to these principles, the founders of this colony have from the beginning looked after the education of the youth. There should already have arisen a full Academy in Orange City were it not for the grasshoppers in 1873-74 and the wet period of 1875. What has not yet occurred can yet be tried. We have no less than a dozen graduates from Hope College in our midst and consequently enough personnel to establish a good institute. And even if the adversity, caused again this year by the young grasshoppers, has caused a postponement, there is no doubt that the intended proposition shall within a few years be carried out.

ORGANIZATIONS

In the fall of 1877 a Young Men's Christian Association was established. Since that time there have been weekly meetings. And through the work of this organization various public gatherings have been organized, in which important educ ational lectures were given. The youth gather several miles to the north of East Orange for such a meeting under the leading of the elder of the Reformed Church there.

On Sunday, May 18, a Sioux County Bible Society was established, whereby the specifics have been extensively dealt with in a previous number, so that we don't have to return to that. In conclusion, we must say of the inhabitants: They are God-fearing, who celebrate on

Sunday faithfully. "Godliness exalts a Nation," (Proverbs 14:34).

CONCLUSION

In writing the history of Sioux County, the writer's purpose has been to present an honorable and true account of affairs and facts. No passage has gone to press without the unconditional approval of those who have lived here since the establishment of the colony. What has been said of the soil and climate may appear to be boasting; but the facts remain nevertheless true and can not be refuted.

Someone has said, "Iowa is able to support a population as large as the United States!" And indeed, the one who said that did not say too much.

Westward moves the Star of the Empire. Old people in eastern New York can yet remember when central New York was regarded as the far west. Not more than 50 years ago enterprising young people gathered and decided to travel to the far west; they loaded their household goods on a wagon, hitched their horses to the wagon, and started on a two month trip to Ohio. Their friends gathered together to give them a sad farewell, with little hope of ever seeing them again. And presently, although 1,000 miles farther out, we find ourselves to the east from the middle point of the United States. When the writer stood for a time on the bank of the Missouri River, he asked, "How far from here is the middle of the United States." The answer was: "Yet another 100 miles more west, as far as can be estimated." "Then Iowa belongs still to the eastern part?" "Without doubt." What a great land America is. In the Northwest of Iowa we can often get into the train right near our door and in three days we are in New York.

The only thing that sets Sioux County back, and still does, is the grasshopper vexation. But then, where does one find perfection on earth? We have to wrestle here with grasshoppers. Other areas have their own special problems. In the meantime, it is not to be doubted that the grasshopper plague will disappear when all the soil is cultivated. Yesterday the writer was several miles to the east of the Floyd River,

and two miles further there was no trace of the grasshoppers to be found. This confirms the thesis that we live on the eastern boundary of the temporary locust domain.

From the "St. Paul Pioneer" we quote the following. "We are convinced that the farmers on the farthest boundary shall be susceptible to the visitation of the destructive grasshoppers but with the emigration the locusts will move westward until they finally disappear."

Civilization is the greatest uprooter of some of the most threatening plagues. The history points to the truth of this. The more Dakota is inhabited, the more likely that the grasshoppers will not come further eastward than Dakota.

We have dealt in detail with the locust question, in that it is a question of life and death for the people in the Northwest and we do not doubt that it will also be of much interest for the people of the eastern states. When the indicated preventive measures shall have been proved to be of benefit, the writer will feel that he has been adequately rewarded for his time and effort.

This history of the Dutch Colony has above all been written in the interest of the Reformed congregation in East Orange. That is why the church affairs were more broadly dealt with.

If the interest of others might have been raised for our benefit, the writer will be not only content, but grateful.

Our wishes and influence are in the interest of the affairs and institutions of Sioux County. It has a future full of greatness, and this it shares with the entire northwestern portion of Iowa. We still believe that the time shall come that the greatest power, wealth and influence in this continent will reside in the great valley to the west of Chicago which is indeed the greatest corn granary in the world.

Rev. J. W. Warnshuis